

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01

AF-06 OPIC-03 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /082 W

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R 121215Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6325

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L 1604

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: CONTROVERSY OVER
SOCIALIST MEETING

REF: (A) LISBON 1290 (DTG 271710Z FEB 76), (B) LISBON 1586
(DTG 111551Z MAR 76)

SUMMARY: PPD HAS PROTESTED OPORTO MEETING OF EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS AS
"INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS," AND WILL STAGE
COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION THERE MARCH 13. PPD ATTACK IS
LIKELY TO GIVE ADDED IMPACT TO SOCIALIST MEETING, AND PS CAN BE
COUNTED ON TO EXPLOIT THE PPD'S REACTION FULLY. END SUMMARY.

1. PPD AND PS CLASH OVER SOCIALIST SUMMIT: THE PPD HAS
PROTESTED THIS WEEKEND'S PS-SPONSORED SUMMIT OF EUROPEAN
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SOCIALIST LEADERS AS "GROSS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL

PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS ON THE EVE OF ELECTION." PPD LEADER SA CARNEIRO DELIVERED VERBAL PROTEST TO EMBASSIES OF PARTICIPATING EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AND PPD IS ORGANIZING MASS RALLY IN OPORTO MARCH 13 WITH THEME OF "NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE." PS IN TURN HAS ACCUSED PPF OF STAGING OPORTO RALLY TO FOMENT DISTURBANCES. PS-LEANING NEWSPAPERS CLEVERLY RAN STORIES OF PPS PROTESTS ALONGSIDE THOSE OF "BERLINER ZEITUNG" AND OTHER EAST EUROPEAN NEWSPAPERS.

2. PARTICIPANTS: LATEST LIST OF PARTICIPATING EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS INCLUDE WILLY BRANDT, HANS EBERSHARD BINGELS AND J.BERTRAN OF GERMAN SPD, AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR BRUNO KREISKY, FRENCH SOCIALISTS FRANCOIS MITTERAND AND DANIEL MYER, JOOP DEN UYL AND HARRY VAN DER BERGH FROM HOLLAND, OLOF PALME AND PIERRE SCHORRI OF SWEDEN, FRANCISCO DE MARTINO AND P. ROSSI OF ITALY, ODRAR NORDLI AND RENAUFSTEEN OF NORWAY AND FELIPE GONZALEZ OF SPAIN. PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO WILL ALSO ATTEND AT LEAST ONE OF THE SCHEDULED EVENTS. BRITISH FONMIN JAMES CALLAGHAN DROPPED OUT AT LAST MINUTE, BUT PRIOR TO PPD PROTEST.

3. LABOR DISPUTES: RASH OF STRIKES CONTINUED IN ACTIVITIES OF A MOSTLY NON-INDUSTRIAL CHARACTER. STRIKES UNDERWAY ARE:

-- NATIONAL STRIKE OF NURSES IN NON-ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO PROTEST GOVERNMENT'S COMPROMISE WAGE OFFER;

-- PARTIAL STRIKE OF COLLECTIVE TRANSPORTWORKERS IN AVEIRO, COIMBRA AND OPORTO;

-- PHARMACY ASSISTANTS IN LISBON, THE SOUTH AND THE ISLANDS;

-- CONTINUING STRIKES AND OCCUPATIONS AT FIRESTONE, FRITZ MEYER LTD, AND TOME FEITEIRRA.

4. COMMENT: PPD ATTACK ON MEETING OF EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS IS LIKELY TO HEIGHTEN MEETING'S IMPACT IN PORTUGAL. THE PPD IS FRUSTRATED AND FURIOUS AT THE MASSIVE PUBLICITY WHICH THE PS-DOMINATED PRESS IS GIVING TO THE MEETING, AND MARIO SOARES
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AND THE SOCIALISTS CAN BE EXPECTED TO EXPLOIT THE PPD REACTION. THE PPD HAS SET FOR ITSELF THE DIFFICULT TASK OF FILLING OPORTO'S LARGE MAIN SQUARE ON SHORT NOTICE AT A TIME WHEN ITS FOLLOWERS ARE ENJOYING THE CURRENT RESPITE FROM MASS MEETINGS.
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